

Learning Objectives
Students will understand the following
concepts:
Importance of victim assistance
professionals conducting an assessment
of victims' basic needs.
Psychological and social outcomes of
trauma.
Medical and health outcomes of trauma.
Interventions for traumatized victims.
Characteristics of victims most likely to
require mental health counseling.

Why the CJS and JJS Should Be Concerned with Victim Trauma

Major factor in victims' failure to cooperate with the CJS and JJS.

Can increase victims' cooperation.

Can improve their favorable perceptions of the CJS and JJS.

Can decrease potential for secondary trauma.

Increase effectiveness of victim input.

Why is the Criminal Justice System Stressful for Victims?

Classical conditioning theory.

Avoidance behavior.

Secondary order conditioning.

Classical conditioning and victims' reactions to the criminal justice system.

Conducting a Core Needs Assessment

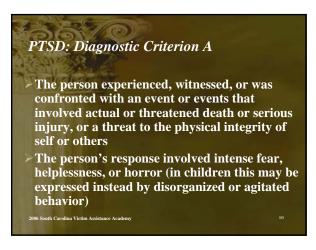
Safety
Food
Shelter
Minimal resources (clothing, personal hygiene, etc.)
Transportation
Social support
Income

Short-term Trauma: During the Crime
Shocked, surprised, terrified
Have feelings of unreality; think it can't be happening
Have high levels of physiological anxiety (e.g., rapid heart rate, rapid breathing)
Have cognitive symptoms of anxiety (e.g., feel helpless and terrified)

Common Short-term Reactions Preoccupation with the crime. High anxiety. May or may not look distressed. Disturbed concentration and difficulty performing simple mental tasks. Concerns about safety.

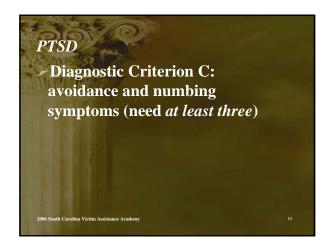








PTSD: Diagnostic Criterion B Recurrent or intrusive thoughts or recollections about the event(s) Recurrent nightmares about the event(s) Suddenly reliving the events(s), flashbacks of it, acting or feeling as if it were reoccurring Intense emotional upset when reminded of the event(s) Intense physical reactions (e.g., sweaty, heart palpitations) when reminded of event(s)

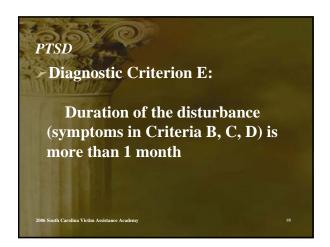




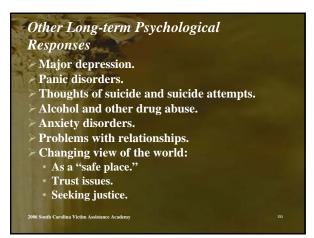


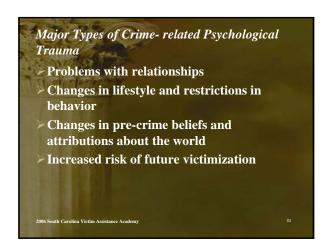


















Types of Crime Victims Most Likely to Need Mental Health Counseling

Previctimization Factors:

No consistent finding with respect to demographic characteristics

Prior victimization history increases trauma following a new crime

History of prior mental health problems increases trauma following a new crime, particularly history of PTSD or major depression

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Types of Crime Victims Most Likely to Need Mental Health Counseling

Crime Factors:
Life threat and injury increases risk
Violent crimes vs. property crimes

Postvictimization Factors:
Poor social support
Degree of exposure to CJS

Resilience The majority of people exposed to major stressors, including violent crime, do not develop PTSD or other major problems. Resilience is defined as "maintaining one's level of psychological and behavioral functioning after exposure to major psychological stressors." New research: resilience is a function of an interaction between genetic characteristics, environmental stress and social support.